

The special order for the hour being the resolutions relative to the death of Senator T. C. McCall, a member of the Senate of the Twenty-fourth General Assembly.

On motion of Senator Boardman, the following resolutions were read:

WHEREAS, Hon. T. C. McCall, late Senator from the Thirty-first Senatorial District, died at his home in Nevada, Iowa, August 11, 1892, and

WHEREAS, The character and public service of the deceased are worthy of public recognition, therefore,

*Resolved*, That it is with sincere regret that this body learns of the death of Senator McCall, and we desire to express our appreciation of his high moral character, his integrity and honesty of purpose, and his valuable services as an honored member of this body.

*Resolved*, That for ourselves and the Senate, we express to his family our most sincere sympathy in the loss of a devoted husband and kind parent.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be entered on the journal of the Senate, and the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to send an engrossed copy to Mrs. Thos. C. McCall, widow, and to the children of the late Senator.

H. C. BOARDMAN,  
GEORGE L. FINN,  
T. B. PERRY,

*Committee.*

In moving the adoption of the resolutions

SENATOR H. C. BOARDMAN,

of the Thirty-first District, spoke as follows:

This being the time set apart that the members of this body may pay tribute to the memory of the late Senator McCall, I desire on behalf of the Thirty-first Senatorial District, and especially of Story county, to voice the thanks of the people of that district to this body, for this memorial and tribute to the deceased Senator.

I realize that nothing I can say will add to the high esteem and respect in which he was held by all in his own home and by his large circle of friends and acquaintances in the State, but on an occasion like this, although sad in itself, I consider it a pleasure, after fourteen year's personal acquaintance with the deceased, to express my own appreciation of his high character and qualities which made him an example as a citizen, legislator, and Christian man.

Hon. Thomas Clifton McCall, late a member of this Senate from the Thirty-first district, was born in Ross county, Ohio, September 4th, 1827, and was at the time of his death, which occurred August 11th, 1892, in his 65th year. He was the worthy descendant of patriotic ancestors. His paternal grandfather, Samuel McCall, was a faithful soldier in the revolutionary war, in which his mother's father also fought with distinction under Gen. Nathaniel Green. His father, Samuel W. McCall, was a soldier in the war of 1812, receiving honorable wounds in the battle of McQuaggy, at about the time of Hull's surrender.

In 1836 his father left Ohio and settled in Clinton county, Illinois,

where the family made their home for ten years. During this time young Mr. McCall was engaged in doing work upon the farm and in acquiring a good common school education.

In 1846 Mr. McCall, then a young man of nineteen, came with his father to Polk county, Iowa, and was engaged for some time in teaching school and is said to have conducted the first school ever taught in this county east of the Des Moines river.

In 1851 he opened a mercantile establishment at Lafayette in partnership with A. Y. Hull. Three years later he became the pioneer merchant of Rising Sun.

In 1858 he removed to Nevada, Story county, which place continued to be his home until the time of his death. He began dealing in real estate and this continued to be his business until he entered the Union army.

Mr. McCall always took a deep and earnest interest in public affairs, and his general intelligence, business ability, and worth as a citizen soon made him a leader in the community where he lived. Accordingly he was elected in 1861 a member of the House in the Ninth General Assembly, in which body he took his seat and served with signal ability during the regular and extra sessions of 1862.

When the storm of civil war burst forth, and brave men were rallying to the defense of country and flag, Mr. McCall, true to the example of a patriotic ancestor, volunteered his service to his country. In October, 1862, he was sent to the front a quartermaster of the Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, with the commission of lieutenant, and on March 22d, 1864, received from President Lincoln the appointment as Assistant Quartermaster-General, with the rank of Captain, in which capacity he served until November 27, 1865.

Returning to Nevada he again engaged in the real estate business, and continued to do his share as a citizen for the up-building materially, socially, and educationally, of his town and county.

In 1881 he was nominated by acclamation by the republican county convention to represent his county in the legislature. He was elected and re-elected in 1883, thus serving in the Nineteenth and Twentieth General Assemblies.

In 1891 he was nominated by the republican Senatorial convention as a candidate for the State senate from the thirty-first senatorial district consisting of Story and Boone counties. He was elected by a very large majority. He served his constituents as a senator faithfully and well in the Twenty-fourth General Assembly. During this last term of service it became evident to his friends, as it was undoubtedly felt by him, that his physical powers were declining; yet he stood nobly and uncomplaining at his post of duty and few senators were more prompt in the discharge of their duties than he.

His course as a legislator is marked by a sincere devotion to the common people. In private and in public he was near to them. They trusted him and he never betrayed that trust.

A republican in principle and conviction he was necessarily a partisan, but in his adherence to party he was fair and honorable and had the respect and friendship of political friends and opponents alike. Aggressive in debate and in defense of his party faith he never wounded by harsh invectives or bitter sarcasm.

Religiously he was an earnest and consistent member of the Presbyterian church and socially a member of the I. O. O. F. and G. A. R.

As a man and a neighbor he was held in the very highest esteem. He was an example of kindness, generosity and fair dealing. In all his extensive business relations he so conducted his affairs and was so just in his dealings, that no one ever complained of being wronged.

As the head of a family he was exceptionally kind and indulgent. Always providing for the welfare and comfort of those depending on him.

While the State has lost an able legislator, and his neighbors and friends a safe counsellor and good citizen, his widow and children mourn a greater loss, that of a noble, generous, tender husband and father.

SENATOR WM. GRONEWEG,

of the Nineteenth District, in seconding the motion of Senator Boardman, spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—I desire to second the resolution. It is with mingled sadness and pleasure that I refer to the loss of our esteemed and beloved colleague. It is with sadness and grief that we deplore his death and the loss of his wise and timely counsel, his sound and able judgment, which he always displayed when taking an active part in the deliberations upon this floor. And it is with pleasure that we look back to those days when he was among us, and recall his mild, pleasant face, and his courteous and affable manner with which he uniformly treated his associates.

My personal acquaintance with the late Senator McCall was short. In fact it was limited to the session of the Twenty-fourth General Assembly; but even those few weeks were sufficient for me to study his character and to discover his sterling virtues, and to learn to appreciate and to esteem him.

During this session it was my good fortune that I had the honor and pleasure to serve on one of the leading committees of the Senate with him, and thereby coming in close contact, it gave me abundant opportunities to observe and study his manner in handling the public business, and I am frank to say that a more earnest, faithful and conscientious public servant I never saw during my limited legislative experience.

Whenever the public interest or that of his constituents of his district was at stake, he was up to the emergency, ever ready to do battle for the common welfare of our state and his district in particular, and really he rendered more service than his delicate and feeble physical strength permitted.

It was plain to everyone who observed Senator McCall during the session of the last General Assembly, that he had passed the mile stone on the summit of the hill long ago and that his descent was slow but sure towards the dark river which he was so much sooner to cross into that country from which no traveler returns than his friends had anticipated.

But, Mr. President, when the angel of death knocks at the door of life, he questions not the hour of convenience, nor the day of opportunity, nor year of usefulness; the infant in his cradle; the youth

attending to his studies at school, trying to fit himself for the future walks of life; the young man, strong, healthy, vigorous, just striking out into the world, and to all appearance ready to conquer it; the man in middle age who has been and is battling with the waves of fortune, forth and back, with varied success; and then the man of mature age, who can look back either with fondness or despair; all are alike to him, and all have to obey his summons. Let us sympathize with the bereaved family, and, fellow senators, let us keep a warm place in our hearts for the memory of the late senator from Story, and let us honor and try to emulate his virtues.

“Peace be to his ashes.”

SENATOR A. B. FUNK,

of the Forty-seventh district, spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—I, too, would bring flowers to the bier of my lamented friend, the sainted Senator McCall. When he entered the Twenty-fourth General Assembly we were unacquainted, but ere long I recognized his sterling worth, and I prized his friendship very dearly. He never did anything for effect. He never endeavored to impress the senate or the reporters with his statesmanship. Self-seeking had part nor lot in his legislative career. In his own strong, brave way, he served the people of his district and State, never sparing himself when the call of duty came. He fairly won titles and honors and possessions, which are bequeathed to his loving family, but the richest legacy left by Thomas McCall is the memory of noble deeds and evidences of stalwart manhood. All honor to his memory.

SENATOR T. B. PERRY,

of the Fifteenth district, spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—I desire to add a few words to what has already been said. I had the pleasure of a short but pleasant acquaintance with the deceased. We lament the death of a citizen as we may know the excellence of his character. One of the highest traits in man is his admiration of goodness in others. Senator T. C. McCall was a good man, and we all mourn his loss.

He was of the old school of public men, dignified yet kind and courteous to all; the soul of honor. Conciliatory and charitable toward others, yet he was fearless and full of courage. His native good judgment, culture and experience acquired from a long and active public career made him a wise and able legislator. His counsels were often sought and cheerfully given. His great kindness and many excellent qualities of head and heart rendered him beloved by all. Thus may we emulate the example of so good a man, and long cherish his memory, as the soul is at rest. Peace be unto his ashes.

SENATOR A. J. CHANTRY,

of the Eighth district, spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—While listening to eloquent words of affection spoken in sadness, of the high character of the late Senator McCall, I have been peculiarly reminded of the feeling of sadness that came over me on the receipt of the intelligence of his passing away.

His long, faithful and eminent public service—his fidelity to every trust, his patriotic devotion to his country's flag, his warm-hearted friendship with which he inspired confidence and good cheer—constitute the *warp* and the *woof* of that high type of citizenship that is the crowning honor of our states.

As may be seen from his Senatorial record, he became a citizen of Iowa the first year after her bright star had been emblazoned on the blue field of the sisterhood of states.

If it be true that the most precious and resplendent jewels of a commonwealth are those of its children who have honored its origin, illumined its pathway and added luster to its fame. We may justly claim a place in the sacred shrine for our colleague and friend. The active portion of his life was contemporaneous with the rapid transition of our State from the condition of a sparsely settled territory to that of a populous, powerful and almost imperial commonwealth.

With the pride of a noble and fearless manhood, Captain McCall done his part to place in Iowa's proud history the page that tells of deeds of daring and heroism of her soldiers. He deserved and enjoyed the fullest confidence of his fellow citizens whom he had the honor to represent faithfully and ably in both branches of the legislature of his State. But as the mantle of years fell upon him, with their weight—rich with experience—but enfeebled with age, it became obvious to his friends and to himself—that he was descending into the valley through which flows that mythical river, the mortal shore-line of which, is always enshrouded in clouds and gloom and upon the banks of which stands the charnel house of mortality; and now, Mr. President, during these sacred moments of this memorial hour, may we not almost indulge in the imagination that as our friend and late colleague crosses the threshold and is lost to view, we stand for the moment very near to those whose stricken hearts have felt a dearer grief than we may know—whose hands in affection have smoothed down the sick man's pillow and trimmed the midnight lamp and in affection *we* say trusted citizen—noble friend—honored Senator, *peace be with thee*, and in the more endearing kinship of comradeship—*comrade*, farewell.

PRESIDENT W. S. DUNGAN

Spoke as follows:

SENATORS—If it be proper for me from my seat to add a word to what has been said by senators, I would be pleased to do so. Most of those who have spoken have said that their acquaintance with the late Senator McCall was of but limited duration. I have had the great pleasure of an intimate acquaintance with him for over thirty years, and I regarded him as one of my warmest friends in this State. To know him was to love him. That genial smile, which always greeted his friends, was but the reflection of a pure and generous nature within. The deceased senator was indeed a model citizen and soldier and statesman, and worthy the encomiums passed upon him by the senators who have spoken.

SENATOR. E. M. REYNOLDS,

of the Third district, spoke as follows:

**MR. PRESIDENT**—I feel that it is my duty to second the resolutions of the committee and add something to the memory of one that I knew so well. My acquaintance with the Hon. T. C. McCall began with the opening of the Nineteenth General Assembly—the last session held in the old Capitol building. Our seats were very near each other, almost in whispering distance. He occupied a seat with the Hon. Chas. Aldrich, the member from Hamilton county. I remember well the member from Story. He was very considerate of the rights and interests of the new and younger members.

He was always ready and willing to assist any one and never spared any pains to help a young and inexperienced member along. I feel that not a single living member of the House of the Nineteenth General Assembly has forgotten the member from Story, and were they here to-day would bear me out in what I say in praise of him. He possessed to a high degree, firmness of purpose and what is termed level-headedness. He never became rattled under any circumstances. I remember one day during a high wind, it was thought the old building would be wrecked, and while all was excitement the member from Story was, to all appearance, entirely unconcerned.

Another time a boy came in hurriedly and was directed to Mr. McCall's seat and handed him a telegram. The member from Story was seen to whisper a few words to the gentleman on his right and deliberately leave the chamber. It afterward transpired that his office was being consumed by fire. He was deliberate in all things; was never excited—always in full control of himself. His judgment never appeared to be at fault. I never knew him to take a position which he receded from. While he was firm he was not in the least overbearing.

He was always ready to yield to reason; however, I am confident that he would rather have suffered any pecuniary loss than to have enriched himself at the expense of the State. He was never mixed up in any job. He was the last man any lobbyist would think of approaching to secure his vote for the passage of a bad bill. He was quick to detect even the semblance of jobbery, no odds how cunningly disguised. He was not given to much speaking, he was rarely on his feet in debate, but was nevertheless always ready to say the right word at the right time, and succeeded in impressing everybody with the idea that he was industrious and always on the alert. He enjoyed the respect of all his colleagues. The members of this body who had the honor of his acquaintance during the last session of the General Assembly, remember him as a feeble, aged man, but his weakness was not of mind nor head.

We all remember that he vigorously defended and supported his measures, and what he opposed he opposed as strongly as many a man of double his strength or half his years.

Twelve years ago although his head was white his form was erect and voice strong and clear. Those who knew him then, and noticed

him two years ago, could not help but realize what a few years can do for us all. My former acquaintance with him caused us to become very intimate the last session. We boarded at the same house, consequently met often. He was always genial, although suffering constantly he was never anything but pleasant and cheerful, never complained. He was fully aware that his end was near, and more than once expressed a doubt of ever returning to the Senate. I know nothing of his last hours on earth, but I am confident that he continued to the last the uncomplaining gentleman.

I understand that his untiring zeal in pursuit of his business was rewarded with a fair share of this world's goods; that he was always willing to share freely with the needy. I cannot better close these short remarks than by saying that I loved him.

Senator Boardman moved that the resolutions be adopted by a rising vote of the Senate, and the President expressed his great pleasure in being able to announce that the resolutions were unanimously adopted.